4 Integral

Lebesgue integral: definition, basic properties. Integral as a new measure. Integral w.r.t. pushforward measure.

4a Introduction

Given a measure space (X, S, μ) and a measurable function $f : X \to [0, \infty]$, we are interested in a measure ν on (X, S) such that

(4a1) $$\mu(A) \inf_{x \in A} f(x) \le \nu(A) \le \mu(A) \sup_{x \in A} f(x) \quad \text{for all } A \in S\,,$$

in order to define the integral by

$$\int_A f \, \mathrm{d}\mu = \nu(A)\,.$$

In symbols, the relation between μ, f and ν is often written as

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\nu}{\mathrm{d}\mu} = f\,,$$

less often as $\mathrm{d}\nu = f \, \mathrm{d}\mu$, and sometimes[1] as $\nu = f \cdot \mu$; the latter notation is used below.

We start with "simple functions", then proceed to measurable functions $X \to [0, \infty]$ ("unsigned"), and then to measurable functions $X \to [-\infty, \infty]$ ("signed").

Throughout, (X, S, μ) is a measure space.

[1] See for example Def. 6 in Appendix A5 to lecture notes by Klaus Ritter; there, find "Probability theory (WS 2011/12)".

4b Simple functions (unsigned)

4b1 Remark. (a) If μ is a measure and $c \in [0,\infty)$, then $c\mu$ is a measure. (By convention, $0 \cdot \infty = 0$.)

(b) If μ_1, μ_2 are measures, then $\mu_1 + \mu_2$ is a measure. (All measures are on the same (X,S), of course.)

(c) If μ is a measure and $B \in S$, then $A \mapsto \mu(A \cap B)$ is a measure.

By a *simple function*[1] we mean a measurable function $f : X \to \mathbb{R}$ such that $f(X) \subset \mathbb{R}$ is a finite set. For now we assume also $f(X) \subset [0,\infty)$ and call f an unsigned simple function.

4b2 Lemma. For every unsigned simple function f there exists one and only one measure ν satisfying (4a1); and this ν is given by

$$\nu(A) = \sum_{y \in f(X)} y\,\mu\big(A \cap f^{-1}(y)\big) \quad \text{for } A \in S\,.$$

Proof. Uniqueness: it follows from (4a1) that $\nu(A) = y\mu(A)$ whenever $A \subset f^{-1}(y)$; and in general, $\nu(A) = \nu\big(\uplus_y (A \cap f^{-1}(y))\big) = \sum_y \nu\big(A \cap f^{-1}(y)\big) = \sum_y y\mu\big(A \cap f^{-1}(y)\big)$.

Existence: the latter formula gives a measure (by 4b1) and, denoting $b = \sup_{x \in A} f(x)$ we have $A = \uplus_{y \le b}\big(A \cap f^{-1}(y)\big)$ and therefore $\nu(A) \le b\sum_{y\le b} \mu\big(A \cap f^{-1}(y)\big) = b\mu(A)$; the infimum is treated similarly. $\square$

We denote this measure ν by $f \cdot \mu$;

$$(f \cdot \mu)(A) = \sum_{y \in f(X)} y\,\mu\big(A \cap f^{-1}(y)\big)\,.$$

In particular,

$$(\mathbb{1}_B \cdot \mu)(A) = \mu(A \cap B)\,; \tag{4b3}$$

$$(\mathbb{1}_A \cdot \mu)(X) = \mu(A)\,. \tag{4b4}$$

4b5 Exercise.

$$(f \cdot \mu)(A) = \int_0^\infty \mu\big(A \cap f^{-1}(y,\infty)\big)\,\mathrm{d}y\,.$$

(Just the Riemann integral of a step function with bounded support.)

Prove it.

[1] But note that "simple" functions are much more complicated than step functions. Indeed, the indicator of a measurable set is a simple function, even if the set is quite complicated.

Clearly, $(cf)\cdot\mu = c(f\cdot\mu)$ for $c\in[0,\infty)$. Also, if f is constant, $f(\cdot)=c$, then $f\cdot\mu = c\mu$.

4b6 Lemma. $(f+g)\cdot\mu = f\cdot\mu + g\cdot\mu$ for all unsigned simple functions f,g.

Proof. If A is such that f and g are constant on A, then $\big((f+g)\cdot\mu\big)(A) = (f\cdot\mu)(A)+(g\cdot\mu)(A)$ (think, why). And in general, this equality still holds, since A is the disjoint union of such sets:

$$A = \biguplus_{y\in f(X),z\in g(X)} \big(A\cap f^{-1}(y)\cap g^{-1}(z)\big)\,.$$

$\square$

One says that the map $f\mapsto f\cdot\mu$ is positively linear.

4b7 Exercise. $(fg)\cdot\mu = g\cdot(f\cdot\mu)$ for all unsigned simple functions f,g. Prove it.[1]

In particular,

$$(g\cdot\mu)(A) = \big((g1\!\!1_A)\cdot\mu\big)(X)\,, \tag{4b8}$$

since both sides are equal to $\big(1\!\!1_A\cdot(g\cdot\mu)\big)(X)$.

4c Measurable functions (unsigned)

4c1 Definition. The (Lebesgue) integral of a measurable function $f:X\to[0,\infty]$ over a set $A\in S$ is

$$\int_A f\,\mathrm{d}\mu = \sup\{(g\cdot\mu)(A) : \text{unsigned simple } g\le f\}\,.$$

Immediate consequences (check them):

(4c2) if f is simple, then $\displaystyle\int_A f\,\mathrm{d}\mu = (f\cdot\mu)(A)\,;$ (simple)

(4c3) if $f=g$ on A, then $\displaystyle\int_A f\,\mathrm{d}\mu = \int_A g\,\mathrm{d}\mu\,;$ (locality)

(4c4) if $f\le g$ on A, then $\displaystyle\int_A f\,\mathrm{d}\mu \le \int_A g\,\mathrm{d}\mu\,;$ (monotonicity)

(4c5) if $f=c$ on A, then $\displaystyle\int_A f\,\mathrm{d}\mu = c\mu(A)\,;$ (constant)

[1] Hint: similar to 4b6.

(4c6) if $a \le f \le b$ on A, then $a\mu(A) \le \int_A f \, \mathrm{d}\mu \le b\mu(A)$. (mean value)

In probability theory, the (mathematical) expectation of a random variable $X : \Omega \to [0, \infty]$ on a probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$ is, by definition,

$$\mathbb{E}\, X = \int_\Omega X \, \mathrm{d}P \, .$$

We'll see soon that the map $A \mapsto \int_A f \, \mathrm{d}\mu$ is a measure, and then we'll denote this measure by $f \cdot \mu$. First, additivity.

4c7 Lemma.

$$\int_{A \uplus B} f \, \mathrm{d}\mu = \int_A f \, \mathrm{d}\mu + \int_B f \, \mathrm{d}\mu$$

whenever $A, B \in S$ are disjoint.

Proof. $\int_{A \uplus B} f \, \mathrm{d}\mu = \sup_g (g \cdot \mu)(A \uplus B) = \sup_g \big((g \cdot \mu)(A) + (g \cdot \mu)(B) \big) \le \sup_g (g \cdot \mu)(A) + \sup_g (g \cdot \mu)(B) = \int_A f \, \mathrm{d}\mu + \int_B f \, \mathrm{d}\mu$; we have to prove that $\int_{A \uplus B} f \, \mathrm{d}\mu \ge \int_A f \, \mathrm{d}\mu + \int_B f \, \mathrm{d}\mu$, that is, $\int_{A \uplus B} f \, \mathrm{d}\mu \ge (g_1 \cdot \mu)(A) + (g_2 \cdot \mu)(B)$ for all simple $g_1, g_2 \le f$. We take $g = \max(g_1, g_2)$ (the pointwise maximum); this is also a simple function, and $g \le f$. Thus, $\int_{A \uplus B} f \, \mathrm{d}\mu \ge (g \cdot \mu)(A \uplus B) = (g \cdot \mu)(A) + (g \cdot \mu)(B) \ge (g_1 \cdot \mu)(A) + (g_2 \cdot \mu)(B)$. $\square$

Second, countable additivity.

4c8 Remark. In Definition 2e2 of a measure, the countable additivity may be replaced with the condition

$$A_k \uparrow A \quad \text{implies} \quad \mu(A_k) \uparrow \mu(A) \, .$$

(Think, why is it equivalent.)

4c9 Lemma.

$$A_k \uparrow A \quad \text{implies} \quad \int_{A_k} f \, \mathrm{d}\mu \uparrow \int_A f \, \mathrm{d}\mu$$

for $A, A_1, A_2, \dots \in S$.

Proof. $\int_A f \, \mathrm{d}\mu = \sup_g (g \cdot \mu)(A) = \sup_g \sup_k (g \cdot \mu)(A_k) = \sup_k \sup_g (g \cdot \mu)(A_k) = \sup_k \int_{A_k} f \, \mathrm{d}\mu$. $\square$

Now we introduce the measure $f \cdot \mu$ by

$$(f \cdot \mu)(A) = \int_A f \, \mathrm{d}\mu \quad \text{for } A \in S \, .$$

The notation is consistent due to (4c2).

4c10 Exercise. (a) If μ is finite and f is bounded,[1] then $f \cdot \mu$ is finite;

(b) if μ is σ-finite and f is finite (everywhere), then $f \cdot \mu$ is σ-finite. Prove it.[2]

4c11 Theorem (Monotone Convergence Theorem)**.** Let functions $f, f_1, f_2, \dots : X \to [0, \infty]$ be measurable, and a set $A \in S$. Then

$$f_k \uparrow f \text{ on } A \quad \text{implies} \quad \int_A f_k \, \mathrm{d}\mu \uparrow \int_A f \, \mathrm{d}\mu \, .$$

4c12 Lemma. Let measurable $f_1, f_2, \dots : X \to [0, \infty]$ and $c \in [0, \infty]$ satisfy $f_1 \le f_2 \le \dots$ and $\forall x \in A \;\; \lim_k f_k(x) \ge c$. Then $\lim_k \int_A f_k \, \mathrm{d}\mu \ge c\mu(A)$.

Proof. It is sufficient to prove that $\lim_k \int_A f_k \, \mathrm{d}\mu \ge bp$ whenever $0 \le b < c$ and $0 \le p < \mu(A)$. Given such b and p, we introduce sets $A_k = \{x \in A : f_k(x) \ge b\}$, note that $A_k \uparrow A$ (think, why) and therefore $\mu(A_k) \uparrow \mu(A)$. For k large enough we have $\mu(A_k) \ge p$. The simple function $g = b\mathbb{1}_{A_k}$ satisfies $g \le f_k$, whence $\int_A f_k \ge (g \cdot \mu)(A) = b\mu(A_k) \ge bp$. $\square$

***Proof** of Theorem 4c11.* Clearly, $\lim_k \int_A f_k \, \mathrm{d}\mu$ exists and cannot exceed $\int_A f \, \mathrm{d}\mu$; we have to prove that $\lim_k \int_A f_k \, \mathrm{d}\mu \ge \int_A f \, \mathrm{d}\mu$, that is, $\lim_k \int_A f_k \, \mathrm{d}\mu \ge (g \cdot \mu)(A)$ for arbitrary simple $g \le f$.

We have $(g \cdot \mu)(A) = \sum_{y \in g(X)} y\mu(A_y)$ where $A_y = A \cap g^{-1}(y)$; and, by 4c7, $\int_A f_k \, \mathrm{d}\mu = \sum_{y \in g(X)} \int_{A_y} f_k \, \mathrm{d}\mu$. For each y, on A_y we have $\lim_k f_k = f \ge g = y$; by Lemma 4c12, $\lim_k \int_{A_y} f_k \, \mathrm{d}\mu \ge y\mu(A_y)$. The sum over $y \in g(X)$ completes the proof. $\square$

4c13 Exercise.

$$\int_A f \, \mathrm{d}\mu = \int_0^\infty \mu\big(A \cap f^{-1}(y, \infty]\big) \, \mathrm{d}y \, .$$

Prove it.[3]

(The right-hand side is the Lebesgue integral on $(0, \infty)$ of the function $y \mapsto \mu\big(A \cap f^{-1}(y, \infty]\big)$.)

In particular, let $A = X$, and (X, S) be $\big([0, \infty], \mathcal{B}[0, \infty]\big)$ (μ being an arbitrary measure on this measurable space), and $f = \mathrm{id} : [0, \infty] \to [0, \infty]$. Then

(4c14)
$$\int_{[0,\infty]} \mathrm{id} \, \mathrm{d}\mu = \int_0^\infty \mu\big((y, \infty]\big) \, \mathrm{d}y \quad \text{for all Borel measures } \mu \text{ on } [0, \infty].$$

[1] Not by $+\infty$, of course.

[2] Hint: (a) easy; (b) use (a).

[3] Hint: 4b5; $f_k \uparrow f$; $f_k^{-1}(y, \infty] \uparrow f^{-1}(y, \infty]$; use 4c11 (twice).

Think twice before writing this $\int_{[0,\infty]}$ as $\int_0^\infty$; the points 0 and ∞ may be atoms of the measure μ.

In probability theory, for a random variable $X : \Omega \to [0,\infty]$, $P\big(X^{-1}(x,\infty]\big)$ is the probability of the event $X > x$, denoted $\mathbb{P}\big(X > x\big)$, and we get

$$\mathbb{E}\, X = \int_0^\infty \mathbb{P}\big(X > x\big)\,\mathrm{d}x\,.$$

Positive linearity of the map $f \mapsto f \cdot \mu$ proved in Sect. 4b for simple f will be generalized soon to measurable f. In other words: positive linearity of $\int_A$ (for every given $A \in S$).

For every measurable f there exist simple f_k such that $f_k \uparrow f$. Just choose finite sets $E_1 \subset E_2 \subset \dots \subset [0,\infty)$ whose union is dense in $[0,\infty)$, and take $f_k(x) = \max\{y \in E_k : y \le f(x)\}$.

4c15 Proposition. $\int_A (f+g)\,\mathrm{d}\mu = \int_A f\,\mathrm{d}\mu + \int_A g\,\mathrm{d}\mu$ for all measurable $f, g : X \to [0,\infty]$.

Proof. We take simple f_k, g_k such that $f_k \uparrow f$, $g_k \uparrow g$; then $f_k+g_k \uparrow f+g$. By 4c11, $\int_A f_k\,\mathrm{d}\mu \uparrow \int_A f\,\mathrm{d}\mu$, $\int_A g_k\,\mathrm{d}\mu \uparrow \int_A g\,\mathrm{d}\mu$, and $\int_A (f_k+g_k)\,\mathrm{d}\mu \uparrow \int_A (f+g)\,\mathrm{d}\mu$. Thus, $\int_A (f+g)\,\mathrm{d}\mu = \lim_k \int_A (f_k+g_k)\,\mathrm{d}\mu = \lim_k \big(\int_A f_k\,\mathrm{d}\mu + \int_A g_k\,\mathrm{d}\mu\big) = \lim_k \int_A f_k\,\mathrm{d}\mu + \lim_k \int_A g_k\,\mathrm{d}\mu = \int_A f\,\mathrm{d}\mu + \int_A g\,\mathrm{d}\mu$. $\square$

Also, $\int_A (cf)\,\mathrm{d}\mu = c\int_A f\,\mathrm{d}\mu$ for $c \ge 0$ (think, why); thus, $\int_A$ is positively linear.

4c16 Corollary (of 4c15 and 4c11)**.** $\int_A \big(\sum_{k=1}^\infty f_k\big)\,\mathrm{d}\mu = \sum_{k=1}^\infty \int_A f_k\,\mathrm{d}\mu$.

4c17 Exercise. [1,2] Let $f = 0$ on the Cantor set, and $f = k$ on each interval of length 3^{-k} which has been removed from $[0,1]$. Find $\int_{[0,1]} f\,\mathrm{d}m$.

In terms of monotone convergence of measures,

$$\mu_k \uparrow \mu \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad \forall A \in S \;\; \mu_k(A) \uparrow \mu(A)\,, \tag{4c18}$$

the Monotone Convergence Theorem 4c11 becomes

$$f_k \uparrow f \quad \Longrightarrow \quad f_k \cdot \mu \uparrow f \cdot \mu\,; \tag{4c19}$$

and 4c16 becomes

$$(f_1 + f_2 + \dots) \cdot \mu = f_1 \cdot \mu + f_2 \cdot \mu + \dots \tag{4c20}$$

[1] Capiński & Kopp, Exer. 4.2.

[2] Hint: $\sum_{k=1}^\infty k x^{k-1} = \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x} \sum_{k=0}^\infty x^k = 1/(1-x)^2$ for $-1 < x < 1$.

4c21 Exercise. Let (Y, T) be a measurable space, $\varphi : X \to Y$ a measurable map, and $f : Y \to [0, \infty]$ a measurable function. Then

$$f \cdot \varphi_* \mu = \varphi_* \big((f \circ \varphi) \cdot \mu \big) .$$

Prove it.[1]

We get a "change of variable formula":[2]

$$\int_B f \, \mathrm{d}(\varphi_* \mu) = \int_{\varphi^{-1}(B)} (f \circ \varphi) \, \mathrm{d}\mu \quad \text{for } B \in T ; \tag{4c22}$$

$$\int_Y f \, \mathrm{d}(\varphi_* \mu) = \int_X (f \circ \varphi) \, \mathrm{d}\mu . \tag{4c23}$$

In particular, let (Y, T) be $\big([0, \infty], \mathcal{B}[0, \infty] \big)$, and $f = \mathrm{id} : [0, \infty] \to [0, \infty]$; we also rename φ to f and get

$$\int_X f \, \mathrm{d}\mu = \int_{[0,\infty]} \mathrm{id} \, \mathrm{d}(f_* \mu) ;$$

this fact follows also from 4c13 and (4c14).

In probability theory, for a random variable $X : \Omega \to [0, \infty]$, $X_* P$ is the distribution of X, denoted P_X (as was noted before 3d3), and we get

$$\mathbb{E}\, X = \int_{[0,\infty]} \mathrm{id} \, \mathrm{d}P_X$$

and, more generally, $\mathbb{E}\, f(X) = \int f \, \mathrm{d}P_X$ for Borel $f : [0, \infty] \to [0, \infty]$.

Another special case of 4c21: $Y = X$, $T \subset S$, $\varphi = \mathrm{id}$. In this case $\varphi_* \mu = \mu|_T$; (4c22) becomes

$$\int_B f \, \mathrm{d}(\mu|_T) = \int_B f \, \mathrm{d}\mu$$

for $B \in T$ and T-measurable f. Extending a measure from T to S we do not change integrals that were defined before. In particular, completion of a measure does not change integrals that were defined before the completion.

Extension of the set X may be treated similarly.

4c24 Remark. Every increasing sequence of measures converges to some measure.

Proof (sketch). Let $\mu_i \uparrow \mu$; clearly, μ is additive; countable additivity (similar to 4c9): let $A_j \uparrow A$, then $\mu(A) = \sup_i \mu_i(A) = \sup_i \sup_j \mu_i(A_j) = \sup_j \sup_i \mu_i(A_j) = \sup_j \mu(A_j)$.

[1] Hint: first, f is an indicator; second, f is simple; third, the general case.

[2] Tao, Exer. 1.4.37; Capiński & Kopp Th. 4.41.

4c25 Exercise. $\mu_k \uparrow \mu$ implies $f \cdot \mu_k \uparrow f \cdot \mu$ for unsigned simple f.
Prove it.[1]

4c26 Exercise. $(fg) \cdot \mu = g \cdot (f \cdot \mu)$ for all unsigned measurable f, g.
Prove it.[2]

In particular, if $f : X \to (0, \infty)$, then $\frac{1}{f} \cdot (f \cdot \mu) = \big(\frac{1}{f} f\big) \cdot \mu = 1 \cdot \mu = \mu$; that is,

$$\nu = f \cdot \mu \quad \Longrightarrow \quad \mu = \frac{1}{f} \cdot \nu \quad \text{for } 0 < f < \infty \,.$$

In more traditional notation

$$f = \frac{\mathrm{d}\nu}{\mathrm{d}\mu} \quad \text{for} \quad \nu = f \cdot \mu \tag{4c27}$$

the fact 4c26 becomes

$$\int_A g \, \mathrm{d}\nu = \int_A \Big(g \frac{\mathrm{d}\nu}{\mathrm{d}\mu} \Big) \, \mathrm{d}\mu \,. \tag{4c28}$$

4c29 Example. The standard normal distribution on $\mathbb{R}$ (called also the standard Gaussian measure on $\mathbb{R}$) is the probability measure $\gamma = \varphi \cdot m$ where

$$\varphi(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \mathrm{e}^{-x^2/2} \quad \text{is the standard normal density} \,.$$

If a random variable X is distributed γ (that is, $P_X = \gamma$), then

$$\mathbb{E}\, f(X) = \int_\Omega f(X) \, \mathrm{d}P = \int_{\mathbb{R}} f \, \mathrm{d}\gamma = \int_{\mathbb{R}} f\varphi \, \mathrm{d}m = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(t)\varphi(t) \, \mathrm{d}t$$

for every Borel $f : \mathbb{R} \to [0, \infty]$.

4c30 Exercise. (a) $c\mu\{x \in A : f(x) \ge c\} \le \int_A f \, \mathrm{d}\mu$ for all $c \in [0, \infty]$;[3]
(b) if $\int_A f \, \mathrm{d}\mu < \infty$, then $\{x \in A : f(x) = \infty\}$ is a null set;
(c) if $\int_A f \, \mathrm{d}\mu = 0$, then $\{x \in A : f(x) > 0\}$ is a null set.
Prove it.[4]

One says that $f < \infty$ almost everywhere on A, if $\{x \in A : f(x) = \infty\}$ is a sub-null set. (For measurable f it is then a null set.) More generally, given a property of a point of A, one says that this property holds *almost everywhere*

[1] Hint: f is a linear combination of indicators; use (4b3).
[2] Hint: first, do it for simple g using (4b7), $f_k \uparrow f$ and 4c25; second, $g_k \uparrow g$, use (4c19).
[3] Do not forget: $0 \cdot \infty = 0$ (as noted in 4b1).
[4] Hint: (a) integrate f over this set; (b), (c) use (a).

(a.e.) on A, if it holds outside some sub-null set (and then, necessarily, outside some null set). In probability theory this is called "almost surely" (a.s.). Thus,

$$\text{(4c31)} \qquad \text{if } \int_A f \, \mathrm{d}\mu < \infty, \text{ then} \qquad f \text{ is finite a.e. on } A\,;$$

$$\text{(4c32)} \qquad \text{if } \int_A f \, \mathrm{d}\mu = 0, \text{ then} \qquad f = 0 \text{ a.e. on } A\,.$$

If $\mu(A) < \infty$ and f is finite a.e. on A, but unbounded, then $\int_A f \, \mathrm{d}\mu$ may converge or diverge. But if $f = 0$ a.e. on A, then $\int_A f \, \mathrm{d}\mu = 0$ (even if $\mu(A) = \infty$), since this is evidently true for simple functions. In particular, $\int_Z f \, \mathrm{d}\mu = 0$ for all f, if Z is a null set. (Indeed, even the equality $0 = \infty$ holds a.e. on a null set!) It follows by 4c7 that $\int_A f \, \mathrm{d}\mu = \int_{A \setminus Z} f \, \mathrm{d}\mu$; null sets are negligible.

Two functions are called *equivalent,* if they are equal almost everywhere.

Denoting by $[f]$ the equivalence class of f we may write the equivalence as $[f] = [g]$. If $[f] = [g]$ then $\int_A f \, \mathrm{d}\mu = \int_A g \, \mathrm{d}\mu$ for all A (just because null sets are negligible). That is, $\int_A [f] \, \mathrm{d}\mu$ is well-defined. Also, $[f] \cdot \mu$ is well-defined.

If $[f_1] = [g_1]$ and $[f_2] = [g_2]$, then $[f_1 + f_2] = [g_1 + g_2]$ (think, why); thus, the sum of two equivalence classes is a well-defined equivalence class. Moreover, the same holds for the sum of countably many equivalence classes. Also the relation $[f] \le [g]$ is well-defined.

Functions may be replaced with equivalence classes in all our statements. For instance, in (4c6):

$$\text{if } a \le f \le b \text{ a.e. on } A, \text{ then } \quad a\mu(A) \le \int_A f \, \mathrm{d}\mu \le b\mu(A)\,;$$

in 4c11:

$$f_k \uparrow f \text{ a.e. on } A \quad \text{implies} \quad \int_A f_k \, \mathrm{d}\mu \uparrow \int_A f \, \mathrm{d}\mu\,;$$

and so on. Usually one still writes functions (just for convenience), but means their equivalence classes.

4d Integrable functions

4d1 Definition. A measurable function $f : X \to [-\infty, +\infty]$ is *integrable,* if $\int_X |f| \, \mathrm{d}\mu < \infty$.

Clearly, integrable functions are a vector space. The functional $f \mapsto \int_X |f| \, \mathrm{d}\mu$ is (generally) not a norm on this space of functions, but is a norm on the corresponding space of equivalence classes:

$$\|[f]\| = \int_X |f| \, \mathrm{d}\mu \, ;$$
$$\|[cf]\| = |c| \|[f]\| \, ;$$
$$\|[f+g]\| \le \|[f]\| + \|[g]\| \, ;$$
$$\|[f]\| = 0 \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad [f] = [0] \, .$$

This normed[1] space is denoted by $L_1(X, S, \mu)$, or just $L_1(\mu)$.[2]

Integrable functions are finite a.e.; WLOG we may assume that they are finite everywhere.

Every integrable function can be written as the difference of two unsigned integrable functions; in particular,

$$f = f^+ - f^- \, , \quad \text{where } f^+ = \max(f, 0) \text{ and } f^- = (-f)^+ \, .$$

4d2 Lemma. If unsigned integrable f_1, f_2, g_1, g_2 satisfy $f_1 - f_2 = g_1 - g_2$, then $\int_X f_1 \, \mathrm{d}\mu - \int_X f_2 \, \mathrm{d}\mu = \int_X g_1 \, \mathrm{d}\mu - \int_X g_2 \, \mathrm{d}\mu$.

Proof. $f_1 + g_2 = f_2 + g_1$; by 4c15, $\int f_1 + \int g_2 = \int f_2 + \int g_1$, that is, $\int f_1 - \int f_2 = \int g_1 - \int g_2$. □

Thus, we may define

$$\int_X f \, \mathrm{d}\mu = \int_X g \, \mathrm{d}\mu - \int_X h \, \mathrm{d}\mu \quad \text{whenever } f = g - h \, ;$$

here f is integrable, and g, h are unsigned integrable. Clearly,

$$[f] \mapsto \int_X f \, \mathrm{d}\mu \quad \text{is a linear functional on } L_1(\mu) \, ,$$
$$\left| \int_X f \, \mathrm{d}\mu \right| \le \|[f]\| \, .$$

The same holds for $\int_A$, of course.

A vector-function $f : X \to \mathbb{R}^n$, $f(x) = \big(f_1(x), \dots, f_n(x) \big)$, is called integrable, if its coordinate functions $f_1, \dots, f_n$ are integrable; in this case, by definition,

$$\int_A f \, \mathrm{d}\mu = \left(\int_A f_1 \, \mathrm{d}\mu, \dots, \int_A f_n \, \mathrm{d}\mu \right) .$$

[1]In fact, Banach space; its completeness will be proved later.

[2]Or $L^1(\mu)$.

With respect to integrability, complex-valued functions $X \to \mathbb{C}$ may be treated as just $X \to \mathbb{R}^2$ (and $X \to \mathbb{C}^n$ as $X \to \mathbb{R}^{2n}$).

Applying 4c13 to f^+ and f^- we get (for integrable f)

$$\text{(4d3)} \qquad \int_A f \, \mathrm{d}\mu = \int_0^\infty \mu\big(A \cap f^{-1}(y,\infty)\big) - \int_0^\infty \mu\big(A \cap f^{-1}(-\infty,-y)\big) \, \mathrm{d}y \, .$$

Similarly to (4c14),

$$\text{(4d4)} \qquad \int_{\mathbb{R}} \mathrm{id} \, \mathrm{d}\mu = \int_0^\infty \mu\big((y,\infty)\big) \, \mathrm{d}y - \int_0^\infty \mu\big((-\infty,-y)\big) \, \mathrm{d}y$$

for all Borel measures μ on $\mathbb{R}$ such that $\int_{\mathbb{R}} |\cdot| \, \mathrm{d}\mu < \infty$.

In probability theory, for an integrable random variable X,

$$\mathbb{E}\, X = \int_0^\infty \mathbb{P}\big(X > x\big) \, \mathrm{d}x - \int_0^\infty \mathbb{P}\big(X < -x\big) \, \mathrm{d}x \, .$$

Applying (4c22) and (4c23) to f^+ and f^- we see that they hold for all integrable f. In particular,

$$\int_X f \, \mathrm{d}\mu = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \mathrm{id} \, \mathrm{d}(f_*\mu) \, ;$$

this fact follows also from 4d3 and (4d4). In probability theory,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}\, X &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} \mathrm{id} \, \mathrm{d}P_X \quad \text{for all integrable } X \, , \\ \mathbb{E}\, f(X) &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} f \, \mathrm{d}P_X \quad \text{for all } P_X\text{-integrable } f \, . \end{aligned}$$

For vector-functions $f : X \to \mathbb{R}^n$, similarly,

$$\int_X f \, \mathrm{d}\mu = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \mathrm{id} \, \mathrm{d}(f_*\mu) \, ,$$

μ-integrability of f being equivalent to $(f_*\mu)$-integrability of id. In probability theory,

$$\mathbb{E}\, f(X_1,\dots,X_n) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f \, \mathrm{d}P_{X_1,\dots,X_n} \, ,$$

where $P_{X_1,\dots,X_n} = X_*P$ is the joint distribution (recall the paragraph before 3d3).

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